

*J. Cooper Junr.*

THE  
P R O G R E S S  
OF  
R E F I N E M E N T.

[PRICE THREE SHILLINGS.]

THE  
P. N. O. G. R. E. S.  
OF



BRITISH MUSEUM

PRICE THREE SHILLINGS



T H E  
P R O G R E S S  
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R E F I N E M E N T.  
A  
P O E M.

I N T H R E E P A R T S.

B Y H E N R Y J A M E S P Y E, E S Q;

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O X F O R D:

A T T H E C L A R E N D O N - P R E S S. M D C C L X X X I I I.

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C. RIVINGTON *St. Paul's Church-Yard, London*. T. BAKER at *Southampton*,  
and J. BURDON at *Winchester*.

THE  
 PROGRESS  
 OF  
 REFINEMENT  
 A  
 POEM  
 IN THREE PARTS.

BY HENRY ESQ.



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O F

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THE  
P R O G R E S S  
O F  
R E F I N E M E N T.

---

P A R T I.

**A**S when the stream by casual fountains fed  
First gushes from the cavern's mossy bed,  
Dashing from rock to rock, the scanty rill  
With no luxuriant herbage cloaths the hill;  
Yet when encreased the ampler current flows, 5  
Each bordering mead with deeper verdure glows,  
Its lingering waves thro' painted vallies glide,  
And Health and Plenty deck its fertile side;  
Till, swell'd by wintry storms and sweeping rains,  
If chance its rising deluge drown the plains, 10

The stagnate waters choak the sedgey soil,  
 And the fond hopes of future harvests foil.  
 So first REFINEMENT in its infant hour  
 Sheds o'er the savage tribe an useless power,  
 Nor can its feeble energy impart

15

Or grace or softness to the human heart;  
 But when in Reason's moderate bounds confin'd  
 Its plenteous streams invigorate the mind,  
 The rising Arts their genial influence share,  
 And all the social Virtues flourish there;  
 Till Luxury's polluting torrents roll  
 A flood destructive o'er the enervate soul,

20

And to the flowers of generous worth succeeds  
 The baneful progeny of Vice's weeds.

Man, ere by rules of civil compact taught,  
 (Uncouth his form, and unimproved his thought,)  
 O'er the rude waste a selfish savage goes,  
 Nor mutual cares, nor mutual kindness knows,  
 How to subsist his being's sole employ,  
 Strength all his art, and rapine all his joy,  
 And where a sterile soil, and frowning heaven,  
 Are to his race by ruthless Nature given,

25

30

The

Compell'd



Compell'd by chace his scanty food to gain,  
Pierced by sharp winds, or drench'd by chilling rain,  
While from the affailing climate, rigid grown, 35  
The alter'd fibres lose each nicer tone,  
Long is the torpid soul by want oppress'd,  
And dawning Reason slowly lights the breast.  
But when his milder, happier portion, lies  
In kindly regions, and more genial skies, 40  
Where balmy sweets the ambient gales dispense,  
And native Luxury enchants the sense,  
Where Earth disdaining cultivation's care  
Bids her free sons the luscious banquet share,  
And the thick groves a roof sufficient spread 45  
To shield from dews and heat the slumbering head;  
Press'd by no want, in leisure's vacant hours  
The expanding Mind perceives her latent powers,  
And from the silken air the nerves derive,  
To each sensation tremblingly alive, 50  
Pleasures uncheck'd by labour's stern controul,  
And bear each finer feeling to the soul.

Then as reclining on the fertile soil,  
Unknown the want of culture's stubborn toil,

His

His grazing charge the gentle herdsman tends, 55  
 And o'er the vale his eye delighted bends,  
 Ten thousand lovely images suggest  
 The dreams of Fancy to his tranquil breast,  
 The female form his soften'd heart inspires  
 With milder thoughts and more refined desires, 60  
 Sweet notes of rural courtship fill the grove,  
 And flow the tender strains of pastoral love:  
 Or as his eyes the nightly ether view,  
 And trace the heavenly concave's cloudless blue,  
 He learns to know what different signs appear 65  
 To guide and regulate the varied year;  
 Observes the changeful Moon alternate show  
 Her orb full-beaming, and her waneing bow,  
 And marks the inferior Planets as they roll  
 In stated periods round the shining pole. 70

Hence every charm that polish'd Nature knows,  
 All that eludes or weakens human woes  
 First dawn'd in regions where the solar beam  
 Pours with superior force the effulgent stream,  
 And to our view the infant Arts arise 75  
 Beneath the warmth of ASIA's fostering skies,

Or

# OF REFINEMENT.

7

Or on ARABIA's happier coasts inhale,  
 Loaded with sweets, the aromatic gale,  
 Or with attentive ear the fables learn  
 Of mystic lore, by NILE's redundant urn;  
 Till gently wafted by the favouring breeze  
 O'er the smooth surface of IONIAN seas,  
 The smiling train their lovely offspring bore  
 To rise and flourish on the GRECIAN shore.

80

Inventive Fancy emulous to raise  
 For worth deceased the monument of praise,  
 To bid Fame live beyond this transient breath,  
 And snatch heroic deeds from icy death,  
 With filial love the frail memorial rear'd,  
 And the heap'd fragment mark'd the tomb revered :  
 But vain the pious care ! — Oblivion's sway  
 Soon swept each undistinguish'd name away,  
 The story of renown no breast retains,  
 And unexplain'd the mouldering pile remains.  
 Then ripening Genius sought the Muses aid,  
 And rustic verse its opening powers display'd ;  
 Tho' no soft grace of polish'd diction shine,  
 Tho' harsh the cadence, and tho' rude the line,

85

90

95

Yet



Yet strengthen'd Memory felt the useful art  
That fixed the favourite legend in the heart; 100

The hoary Sage the sure advantage saw,  
And in rough strains promulged his simple law,  
In the short verse the moral rule compress'd,  
And early form'd to truth the docile breast.

The infant warblings of the Muses lyre 105

Subdue the will perverse, and passion dire;

Their gloomy wilds the savage race forfook

As ORPHEUS sung, and milder manners took,

And charm'd to order by AMPHION's lay

The forms of civil life mankind obey. 110

As bursts the beam of day thro' clouded skies

At length with light ethereal Letters rise,

To chain the fleeting sound their magic taught,

Portray'd the Idea, and embodied thought;

Blest, happiest, privilege to mortals given! 115

Which wings the aspiring soul from Earth to Heaven.

Whether progressive skill the art acquired,

Or power divine the sacred gift inspired;

Whether a mere invention of the Mind

As opening Science civilized mankind, 120

Or

Or a peculiar mark of heavenly grace  
 At first bestow'd on ISRAEL's favour'd race  
 Tho' Reason doubt ;—from morn to setting day  
 The various tribes of humankind survey,  
 And own that all who following Wisdom's plan 125  
 Fulfil those duties that distinguish Man ;  
 All who extend their penetrating sight  
 Beyond the reach of animal delight,  
 This blessing from one common fountain share,  
 Tho' tinged with ignorance, or refined by care : 130  
 Even GREECE where letter'd Science prosper'd best  
 Its oriental origin confess'd,  
 Fix'd by the fabled Author ASIA's claim,  
 And mark'd its source by \* CADMUS' mystic name.  
 As the ripe seed when sown with skilful toil 135  
 Soon feels the influence of a friendly soil,  
 With rapid shoots the planter's care repays,  
 And high in air its waving boughs displays ;  
 So GREECE beheld the ingenuous Arts expand  
 In her congenial air, and kindly land. 140

\* CADMUS is derived from a word in the oriental languages, signifying the East.

While Freedom by the insulting despot driven  
 From Southern climes and ASIA's warmer heaven,  
 Fix'd with delight her EUROPEAN throne  
 O'er favor'd realms, and regions all her own.  
 Chear'd by her sway each slumbering Muse awakes, 145  
 And from her smiles superior vigor takes:  
 Now Poesy with animating fire  
 Throws her bold fingers o'er the Epic wire,  
 And Lyric Extasy exulting sings  
 Born on the THEBAN eagle's towering wings, 150  
 While the chaste Drama rising by degrees,  
 By care successive polish'd, learns to please,  
 From the rude outlines of the mimic art  
 First shewn by THESPIUS in his wandering cart,  
 To the famed Bards whose labor'd scenes engage, 155  
 The dumb attention of the Attic stage.  
 Soon every Science, every Art succeeds,  
 Happy to follow where a Sister leads.  
 Charm'd from her seats on EGYPT's watery plain,  
 And freed from fabling Error's mystic chain, 160  
 Thro' the still gloom of ACADEMUS' shade  
 Philosophy with solemn footstep stray'd;

While



Bold Imitation still to Nature true  
 The perfect form from perfect models drew,  
 For ne'er were equal'd GRECIA's lovely race 165  
 Or for the faultless shape, or beauteous face.  
 Music devoid of each capricious art  
 Touch'd with her sweetest melody the heart:  
 And Architecture plan'd, in awful state  
 The Dome with just proportion simply great, 170  
 Or nobly plain the DORIC pile appear'd,  
 Or her light column soft IONIA rear'd,  
 Or CORINTH bade her polish'd Temples rise  
 With ornamental grandeur to the skies.  
 With force united this illustrious train 175  
 Graced the loud forum, and the holy fane,  
 But chiefly were their magic charms combined  
 When the loved Drama fix'd the ATHENIAN mind:  
 Whether the drops of generous pity spring  
 At the sad fate of THEBES' unhappy King, 180  
 Or glows the exulting heart with patriot flame  
 To hear the tale of GRECIA's ancient fame,  
 On this delightful source of virtuous joy  
 The lavish Arts their choicest skill employ,

And all their various powers at once convene 185  
 To dress in gorgeous pomp the attractive scene.  
 Encouraged thus by Freedom's favoring smiles,  
 While every Muse the listening ear beguiles,  
 While Wisdom grave, and polish'd Grace combine,  
 At once to form the Virtues, and refine, 190  
 Improvement spreads to life's more humble cares,  
 And Industry the happy influence shares:  
 Down the steep cliff, and o'er the craggy brow  
 Strong Agriculture drives his laboring plow,  
 And to the currents of the rising gale 195  
 Adventurous Commerce trusts her swelling sail,  
 To the bleak rock the cultured globe succeeds,  
 Where waves the harvest and the vintage bleeds,  
 And the fraught vessel with her woven wings  
 The wealth of nations to Prizes brings. 200  
 Roused by those honors given by Glory's hand  
 To dress the Victor on the Olympic sand,  
 With active toil each ardent stripling tries  
 To bind his forehead with the immortal prize,  
 Hence strength and beauty deck the GRÆCIAN race, 205  
 And manly labour gives them manly grace.—

Yet while the scenes of Nature and of Art  
 The perfect forms of elegance impart,  
 While Wisdom's sacred lore the bosom warms,  
 And brighter Virtue boasts her moral charms, 210  
 The bliss in social intercourse that lies  
 Unknown they lose, or knowing they despise,  
 Illiberal folly 'midst their mirth we find,  
 And savage grossness taints the noblest mind,  
 The genial board licentious sports beguile, 215  
 And sages woo the harlot's venal smile.  
 For the soft Sex whose mild enchanting power  
 With gentle pleasure cheers the festal hour,  
 Denied the banquet's temperate joys to share,  
 Are the mere drudges made of household care; 220  
 Hence faint the force of that refined desire  
 Which modest Beauty only can inspire.  
 To other paths diverted passion turns,  
 And with enthusiast ardor Friendship burns.—  
 Far be it from the virgin Muse to try 225  
 O'er that mysterious scene to throw her eye.  
 Enough for her, while every manly breast  
 She sees in Virtue's purest radiance dress'd,



Sees every heart, with patriot Glory warm,  
 Check the proud war, or perish in the storm, 230  
 To cry like PHILIP on that fatal plain  
 Where Victory wept the sacred THEBANS slain,  
 Curfed be the slanderous tongue that worth like this would stain.

Tho' some prevailing characters we trace  
 Thro' every nation of the GRECIAN race, 235  
 Tho' superstition, manners, speech, the same,  
 One common origin to all proclaim;  
 Tho' when the different states assembled stood  
 By PISA's shades, or fair CASTALIA's flood,  
 Where each time-hallow'd rite conspired to draw 240  
 On the full festival religious awe,  
 By the mix'd forms of mutual converse taught  
 The separate tribes congenial features caught;  
 Yet GREECE no general bond of empire found  
 Which all her sons in one firm compact bound, 245  
 But each republic as its fabrick rose  
 Peculiar laws, peculiar customs chose.  
 SPARTA, where royal power's divided sway  
 Alternate knew to govern and obey,

Where

# OF REFINEMENT.

15

Where Kings and People equal rule restrain'd, 250  
 And rigid Law the only tyrant reign'd,  
 Saw grave Politeness spread her sober grace,  
 And Modesty suffuse the warrior's face :  
 No subtle reasoning moved her steady throng,  
 But every sentence clear, concise, and strong, 255  
 In artless guise the speaker's mind convey'd :  
 And simple language simple truths display'd :  
 No Luxury debauch'd her frugal train,  
 For public glory there, was private gain.  
 While ATHENS, where alike with frantic zeal 260  
 All aim'd by turns to guide the general weal,  
 For wide her blessings ample Freedom threw,  
 And every voice an equal suffrage knew ;  
 ATHENS beheld her sons forego their claim,  
 The substance quitting for the shadowy name, 265  
 And noisy Faction at Ambition's call  
 Usurp'd that empire which belong'd to all,  
 While spacious Demagogues seduced the sense  
 With all the flowery tropes of eloquence,  
 And the free audience polish'd, and severe, 270  
 Mark'd each oration with a critic ear.

In

In vain might Prudence raise her warning voice  
 If soft persuasion won the public choice,  
 In vain its aims might patriot care pursue  
 If one mistaken accent censure drew. 275  
 Awaken'd thus to every thrill of joy  
 While arts of elegance their thoughts employ,  
 Born by the tide of eloquence along,  
 Moved by a tale, a fable, or a song,  
 Of their own delegated powers afraid, 280  
 Despising laws by their own suffrage made,  
 The fickle race impatient of controul  
 Rush headlong onward to Corruption's goal :  
 What patriot sage to turn the current tries  
 Is doom'd to exile, or by poison dies, 285  
 And him they raise who impudent and loud  
 Enflames the passions of the giddy croud :  
 And tho' Invasion with remorseless hand  
 Spread flame and carnage o'er the groaning land,  
 The Theatre employs their sole debate, 290  
 And more they prize the Drama than the state :  
 When there the scene unfolds some favorite theme,  
 Lull'd by sweet Fancy's vain delusive dream,

Of



Of PERSIA check'd and GREECE preserv'd they boast  
 Tho' conquering PHILIP ravages their coast, 295  
 And MARATHON's victorious deeds display  
 On the dread eve of CHÆRONEA's day.

Of human glory thus how short the date!  
 On Wealth and Freedom, Pride and Luxury wait,  
 And from her burthen'd lap Profusion throws 300  
 The seeds of growing Vice, and future woes.—  
 The fervent zeal of public spirit dead,  
 And patriot Virtue's manly influence fled,  
 The daring bands of freemen that defied  
 In fields of blood the MEDIAN Tyrant's pride, 305  
 Purchas'd, betray'd, divided, and o'erthrown,  
 Bend to a state their fires had hardly known.

Yet Science loved to breathe her favorite air,  
 Tho' Liberty was fled still linger'd there.  
 Even of those Chiefs who shared the unjust command 310  
 Which PHILIP and his greater son had plan'd,  
 Some brave descendants felt the Muses charms,  
 And sooth'd with liberal Arts usurping Arms;  
 Warm patronage awhile could keep alive  
 The flowers in Freedom's air alone that thrive, 315

And Genius consecrates to deathless fame  
With grateful voice her PHILADELPHUS' name.

Tho' mad Ambition soon with furious haste  
Laid every fence of civil Virtue waste,  
And sunk in sloth, or petrified by fear, 320  
No daring arm oppos'd her wild career,  
Yet ne'er did abject Luxury's domain  
O'er GRECIA stretch her universal reign,  
Or Asiatic Indolence dispense  
That blasting torpor to each blunted sense, 325  
Chill'd by whose touch the generous purpose flies,  
Droops Emulation, faded Glory dies,  
While the corrupted heart each vice imbibes  
That sinks mankind below the bestial tribes.

Religion, Language, Manners, tho' we find 330  
Give one strong tincture to the GRECIAN mind,  
Yet different interest each republic draws,  
Divided claims, and independent laws,  
The neighbouring states eternal war alarms,  
And ease invaded yields to manlier arms; 335  
Whence strict the rules of discipline remain,  
And firm their courage on the embattled plain.

Tho'

Tho' by compulsion strong, and stronger art,  
 PHILIP could temporary peace impart,  
 With potent gold a shameful union bought 340  
 Which public Wisdom oft had vainly fought,  
 Short was the race by his Ambition run,  
 And short the glory of his conquering son;  
 Then as the spoils of empire to divide  
 Contending chiefs with impious ardor tried, 345  
 And freedom bade some bolder states unite  
 To guard with ancient zeal her sacred right,  
 The doubtful conflict for a time call'd forth  
 The dormant relics of heroic worth,  
 Till every weak distinction swept away 350  
 By the full tide of ROME's superior sway,  
 Whate'er the stores of GRECIAN art supplied  
 Served but to swell the happier Victor's pride;  
 And haughty Luxury ashamed to own  
 O'er tributary realms a partial throne, 355  
 Attends the rising power by Fate design'd  
 To fix her boundless empire o'er mankind.  
 Lo! in the regions whence FAVONIUS blows  
 A hardy race HESPERIA's vales disclose;



With sinews firm the rugged offspring rise 360  
And brave the force of less auspicious skies,  
For freezing winds had erst CAMPANIA known,  
And yellow TIBER worn an icy zone.  
The sons of ROME ne'er felt the soft controul  
Of milky kindness stealing o'er the soul, 365  
Nor did their nerves to pleasure's touch awake  
Of gentler thoughts the mild impression take;  
The rigid texture of their rougher frame  
The dangerous glories of the field enflame;  
To wage with sure success the bloody fight 370  
Their favorite care, and war their sole delight.  
Victors, or vanquish'd, by the example taught  
They found new paths to conquest as they fought.  
Triumphant CARTHAGE vaunts her powers in vain  
And claims the exclusive empire of the main, 375  
ROME to the sea her ductile Genius turns,  
And from her foe the means of Victory learns;  
Repairs with wiser toil the ruin'd fleet,  
And gains superior art from each defeat,  
Her naval care with perseverance plies, 380  
Till, by the course of long experience wise,

The

The watery war her perfect gallies dare,  
 And LIBYA's ancient splendor melts to air.  
 In vain to check these unremitting foes  
 Their studied Tactics GRECIA's sons oppose, 385  
 Whose force compelling countless hosts to yield  
 With PERSIA's bleeding Myriads strew'd the field :  
 The Legions active, disciplined, and fierce,  
 With varied shock the close-wedged PHALANX pierce,  
 And Freedom's noblest sons are doom'd by fate 390  
 The servile subjects of a foreign state.

Their country vanquish'd, still the arts remain,  
 Still learned ATHENS boasts her polish'd train ;  
 The flowery garlands there they weave to bind  
 In pleasures roseate wreaths the ROMAN mind, 395  
 The joys of peace the haughty Victors learn,  
 And GREECE exulting triumphs in her turn.  
 Tho' first they view with undiscerning eyes  
 Sculpture's fair grace, and Painting's glowing dyes,  
 Tho' Consuls by the piece the marble rate, 400  
 And the wrought brass is valued by the weight ;  
 Yet soon their hearts the Muses sway confess'd  
 And powerful numbers sooth'd the warlike breast,

Each

Each swelling bosom caught the generous fire,  
 And ROMAN fingers struck the GRECIAN lyre: 405  
 Not with that fierce delight, that sudden glow  
 Which from the genuine beams of Nature flow,  
 That burst of Harmony which pour'd along  
 The full luxuriance of the Epic Song! —  
 Matured by time their ripening Genius rose, 410  
 From the harsh lines of ENNIUS' measured prose  
 To strains on which the Muse enamour'd hung,  
 And drank each dulcet note from MARO's tongue.

But ne'er shall Imitation's loveliest charm  
 Like native Grace the raptured bosom warm, 415  
 This bright and awful as the beam of day,  
 That like the paler moon's reflected ray.  
 By no fallacious hues does Nature please,  
 But boldly gives the manners that she sees,  
 Not Truth in Fiction's splendid garb arrays, 420  
 But with free stroke the living form portrays,  
 Her Bards divine the real actions sing  
 Of the stern Hero, or the warrior King,  
 Or paint the life the amorous Shepherd leads.  
 In the rich verdure of SICILIAN meads, 425

While



While with the verse their heated Fancy weaves  
Each sacred tale Mythology believes :  
But Imitation with correcter hand  
Fills but the outline that Invention plan'd,  
With care retrenches each superfluous part, 430  
Or adds the tinsel ornaments of art,  
Describes the manners that she never knew,  
And faintly copies what her Mistress drew;  
Hence with assiduous step the LATIAN Muse  
The march sublime of elder GREECE pursues, 435  
Content to glean with care the scatter'd flowers  
From the full harvest of her happier hours.

And now the improving sons of ROME behold  
The scenes of Attic elegance unfold,  
Admire the fane by sculptured Nature graced, 440  
And catch from every glance congenial taste:  
The Capitol by conquering Consuls trod  
Receives with friendly rite each marble God,  
In bend majestic swells the PARIAN arch  
Thro' which in solemn pomp the Victors march; 445  
ROME with delight the pleasing toil pursues,  
And emulates the beauties that she views,

Exults

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Exults



Exults in arts and artists of her own,  
Bids the warm canvass breathe, and animates the stone.

Happy had ROME adorn'd by spoils like these 450  
Been satisfied with GRECIAN arts to please!  
But ASIA's subject regions now disclose  
The fatal sources of unnumber'd woes. —  
Each delegated chief who used of yore  
To guide the thundering battle's furious roar, 455  
Bind the green laurel round his conquering brow,  
And then return contented to the plow;  
Now proudly stretches with rapacious hand  
O'er plunder'd provinces his harsh command;  
Loaded with wealth the stern Proconsuls come, 460  
And eastern splendor dazzles wondering ROME.  
Caught with the lustre of the shining ore  
The charms of poverty can please no more,  
The ancient fame of frugal heroes dies,  
And venal hopes, and venal passions rise; 465  
The honest boast of Democratic pride  
Is drown'd in dark corruption's swelling tide,  
And Freedom's awful rights are basely sold  
For the vile barter of barbaric gold.

Exults

No

No more ROME's venerable Senate flings 470  
 Dismay and terror o'er usurping kings ;  
 No more the injured Nations grateful see  
 Oppression tremble at her just decree ;  
 No more her sword is drawn in Glory's cause  
 For rights betray'd, or violated laws : 475  
 The Tyrant buys impunity for vice,  
 And every public outrage has its price ;  
 Avarice can fix a giddy people's choice,  
 And servile legions arm at Faction's voice.  
 In vain a few with steady courage stood 480  
 To stem the torrent of the whelming flood,  
 The selfish passions with insidious force  
 Of patriot worth had poison'd every source ;  
 Still lawless power uprear'd her hydra head,  
 And Freedom was no more tho' CÆSAR bled. 485  
 Intent the aims of faction to compleat,  
 Vaults smoother Cunning in Ambition's feat.—  
 A youth unmoved by pity or by rage,  
 As Manhood firm, yet cold as palsied Age,  
 Hiding in specious guile his cruel views, 490  
 The impious scheme with ceaseless toil pursues.

His wiles, the work of ages to destroy,  
 Severity and ease by turns employ;  
 Death's stern decrees, or friendship's milder call,  
 Allure the timid, or the bold appal: 495

The enchanting Muses, whose delightful art  
 Can bend the stubborn purpose of the heart,  
 His voice invokes to charm the attentive mind,  
 And hide the fetters that enslave mankind.  
 The Muses hear!—forgetful that their sway 500  
 Was first produced in freedom's happier day  
 They hear, and mindless of their ancient worth  
 Betray the parent power that gave them birth,  
 Adore the Author of their country's doom,  
 And seal the fate of Liberty and Rome. 505

After a dreadful scene of war and woes  
 The brazen gates of two-faced Janus close,  
 The sad effects of civil discord cease,  
 And all a restless world is wrap'd in peace.  
 By Actium's Victory stop'd the fatal strife, 510  
 No more the dire proscription threatens life,  
 No more the bloody scroll of Death appears,  
 But Mercy's snowy garb Augustus wears.

The



The gentler Arts each harsher care beguile,  
 And Science grows beneath his fostering smile: 515  
 Around his throne the laughing Loves resort,  
 And own the influence of a peaceful court.  
 Pleasures refined that GRECIA never knew  
 Croud to the sight, and bless the raptur'd view:  
 To the pert quaintness of SOCRATIC wit, 520  
 Or the rude jests that lower manners fit,  
 To feasts where sage disputes the hours employ,  
 Or the loose revels of licentious joy,  
 Succeeds that intercourse of sweet delight,  
 Tho' gay not vicious, and tho' free polite, 325  
 Their mingled gifts where ease and mirth dispense,  
 Ease void of roughness, mirth restrain'd by sense:  
 And lovely Woman, tho' not taught to know  
 That public homage later days bestow,  
 With modest smiles domestic converse graced, 530  
 And soften'd by her looks each ruder taste.  
 Even Freedom tho' her sacred power was fled  
 O'er manners yet a parting radiance shed,  
 On the warm heart was Virtue's form impress'd,  
 And dauntless courage fired the warrior's breast. 535

The generous youth in MARS' gymnastic field  
 By manly sports his hardy sinews steel'd,  
 Curb'd the bold steed, the dusty conflict flood,  
 Or plunged his glowing limbs in TIBER's flood,  
 Science a milder charm to Valor gave,  
 And Empire seem'd to polish, not enslave,  
 ROME equal Arms, superior Arts could boast,  
 And hardly deem'd her ancient glory lost.

But short the light of Pleasure's transient gleam!  
 Soon Nature starting from the illusive dream  
 Shrinks back affrighted as her eyes survey  
 The horrid form of arbitrary sway.—  
 Monsters who built on vice their dreadful joy,  
 Proud of their crimes and happy to destroy,  
 Seized the vast power that Freedom's sons resign'd,  
 And shook the rod of vengeance o'er mankind;  
 Life hung alone upon a tyrant's breath,  
 And each capricious frown awarded death.  
 Amid the waste of years tho' haply shine  
 A TITUS, TRAJAN, or an ANTONINE,  
 The short-lived interval more strongly shews  
 The striking contrast of despotic woes.

What

What force can free the mind that Vice has chain'd,  
 Or clear the current if the fountain's stain'd?—  
 No distant regions happier hopes afford 560  
 Beneath the empire of a milder lord;  
 Fear still beholds where'er her eye she flings,  
 Subjected states, and tributary kings;  
 And Power o'ertakes the exile as he goes  
 O'er LIBYAN deserts, or thro' SCYTHIAN snows. 565  
 Condemn'd the endless scenes of blood to see,  
 While looks are watch'd, and hardly thought is free,  
 In ROME's sad inmates, now a wretched race,  
 No more the marks of ancient worth we trace.  
 In the dull soul, a stupid, lifeless void, 570  
 Roused by no action, by no cares employ'd,  
 Each fading energy of Virtue dies,  
 As droops the plant beneath inclement skies.  
 The cohorts from the frontier distant far  
 In slothful ease forget the toils of war, 575  
 Or from their camp with factious arms o'erawe  
 The weak remains of freedom and of law,  
 O'er Senates with tumultuous force prevail,  
 And set the Empire of the world to sale.

The



The Muse no more with native beauty warms 580  
 But tricks with art her meretricious charms:  
 Science in simple form, and semblance chaste,  
 Offends the alter'd times degenerate taste.  
 Each social Charity of private life,  
 The smiling offspring, and the tender wife, 585  
 Now cease the scene domestic to endear:  
 For who can wish a wretched race to rear  
 Slaves to a cruel tyrant's fickle gust,  
 Rods of his power, or minions of his lust?—  
 To the sweet joys that blushing Beauty gave 590  
 Succeeds the traffick of the female slave,  
 Till sated the perverted Fancy roves  
 To monstrous pleasures, and unseemly loves.  
 Debarr'd each just pursuit, the restless mind  
 Seeks in flagitious deeds relief to find, 595  
 In sensual cares grows exquisitely nice,  
 And only seeks variety of vice.

Their stores the tributary realms supply  
 To glut even Luxury's insatiate eye;  
 For ITALY, while ROME no rival knew, 600  
 Ere yet BYZANTIUM's fatal empire grew,

Saw

Saw on her shores contending nations meet  
To lay their various produce at her feet,  
Commerce who independent states can draw  
To equal compact by her general law, 605  
Who weighs what nature gives and what denies,  
While mutual barter mutual want supplies,  
Exulting ROME contemn'd, who saw unfurl'd  
Her conquering banners o'er a subject world,  
And her proud offspring buoy'd by ancient fame, 610  
Not gain by purchase, but by empire claim.  
All that the warmer southern climes dispense  
Fair to the eye, and grateful to the sense,  
Whatever eastern regions can afford  
To grace the mansion, or to deck the board, 615  
In endless heaps the imperial seat supplied,  
Her pleasure gratified, or sooth'd her pride,  
At the full feast to indolence resign'd,  
Lie the soft race on purple beds reclined,  
And o'er the room in many a crimson fold 620  
The arras hangs with ivory rough and gold  
Of massive plate the attentive slaves produce  
The meanest vessels of domestic use,

And

And in rich mists the cooling odors shed  
 Ambrosial fragrance round the listless head, 625  
 Thro' the wide dome the fumes of incense roll,  
 And GRECIA'S purest vintage crowns the bowl,  
 A nation's wealth their lavish fancies waste  
 To furnish viands for one great repast;  
 So vast the size of bloated Luxury swells 630  
 Faith scarcely credits what th' historian tells.  
 To load the table when the tyrant fed,  
 Seas have been drain'd, and Hecatombs have bled;  
 The EUXINE mourn'd her shores despoil'd of fish,  
 And woods unpeopled form'd one costly dish; 635  
 Even when the calls of appetite were o'er,  
 And Nature's loaded powers could act no more,  
 With brutal skill were shameful means pursued,  
 That blunted hunger's sickly force renew'd,  
 In the pall'd taste could false desires excite, 640  
 And goad the sated sense to fresh delight.  
 In constant scenes like these enervate grown,  
 The slaves of lust and gluttony alone,  
 No joy beyond voluptuous ease they deem,  
 And small exertions cruel hardships seem, 645

b7A

From



From Indolence, and Vice their pleasures flow,  
And Fear's the only active power they know :  
Too selfish e'er to think of public care,  
Too weak the weight of manly arms to bear,  
A favorite's nod degenerate legions wait, 650  
And servile Eunuchs regulate the state.  
Firm discipline is lost by long neglect,  
And mercenary hosts the throne protect.  
Weaken'd by CONSTANTINE's misjudging pride  
Whose vain designs the imperial strength divide, 655  
Open and wide the extended frontier lay,  
To each barbarian hord an easy prey :  
On every side the ruffian bands contend,  
By turns invade them, and by turns defend,  
Till lured by wealth and splendor's tempting prize, 660  
The warlike tribes such coward chiefs despise,  
Against the trembling race their swords employ,  
And spread destruction round with savage joy,  
Pour o'er each region like a wintry flood,  
And ROME's diminish'd empire sets in blood. 665  
Of the long sway of twice six hundred years  
Stupendous fabrick ! scarce a wreck appears,

Save a poor remnant as the ruin falls,  
Preserv'd to languish in BYZANTIUM's walls.

Now thro' the extent of Nature's wide domain 670  
Once more the horrid powers of darkness reign,  
Again Chaotic ignorance rears her head,  
And o'er mankind her fable veil is spread.  
What scatter'd arts survive the general doom  
Retreat to wither in the cloister's gloom; 675  
And if by chance from thence some sickly beam  
Shoots faintly forth a transitory gleam,  
It serves but like the meteor's lurid light  
To add new horror to the shades of night.

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P A R T II.

**A**S when stern Winter's desolating power,  
Arm'd with the piercing frost, and fleetly shower,  
O'er shivering Nature spreads its iron reign,  
Bare stands the grove, and waste extends the plain;  
Yet in the scatter'd seed, and buried root 5  
The embryo blossom hides, prepared to shoot  
When Spring with milder influence shall prevail,  
And balmy Zephyrs breathe the genial gale.  
So, wrap'd in ignorance, tho' the human heart  
No vivid hues retain of ancient art, 10

Yet

Yet still the dormant seeds expectant there  
Await the hour of cultivation's care ;  
Still verdant scions from the root shall grow  
When mild Occasion's fostering breezes blow,  
To bud and bloom again with Parent worth,  
And emulate the stock that gave them birth.

15

Yet as the culture asks severer toil  
When poisonous weeds o'errun the useless foil ;  
So Reason labours long to bend the breast  
Where Error's barbarous tenets are impress'd :  
Soon learns the untutor'd thought with generous aim  
To catch the glow of Virtue's holy flame,  
But where strong forms of Prejudice deprave  
The simpler rules that untaught Nature gave,  
Ere yet Refinement with her gentle rein  
The impatient course of giddy sense restrain.  
There every dreadful Passion will impart  
Superior horror to the vicious heart,  
And teem the annals of the unhappy times  
With dire events, and unexampled crimes.

20

25

30

The ruffian tribes that pour'd tumultuous forth  
In countless myriads from the frozen North,

By



# OF REFINEMENT.

39

By no soft touch of milder manners graced,

Rapacious inmates of the howling waste,

'Mid the vast wild of SCANDINAVIAN plains,

35

Of tempest and of cold the drear domains,

A system framed, whose universal sway

The varied race with common zeal obey,

From where the wintry surges foaming break

Of the loud BALTIC, to the CASPIAN lake.—

40

Boldly they vaunt with unsubmitting soul

To scorn of sovereign power the strong controul,

Yet to the rule of martial order yield,

And own a Monarch on the embattled field.

By Victory crown'd, the chiefs with equal pride

45

In different lots the subject realms divide,

And the fierce leader of each separate hord

Reigns o'er his share an independent lord,

What arms had won maintaining by the sword.

For tho' each stern commander homage paid

50

When War's loud clarion claim'd the promised aid,

The tumult o'er, no civil force remain'd

That Anarchy's impetuous rage restrain'd:

Each

Each haughty chief could regal justice awe,  
And mock the uncertain rules of feeble law. 55

In constant feuds the ungovern'd tribes engage,  
And the dire battle Hate and Vengeance wage.

No pity unrelenting Conquest shews,  
But the fell tyrant spoils his weaker foes,  
Licentious Rapine leads the furlous train 60

And Age, and Rank, and Beauty plead in vain.

Tho' Prejudice may warp, or Passion blind  
Awhile, the honest purpose of the mind,  
Yet to the conscious soul of Man belong  
The love of Justice, and the hate of Wrong; 65  
Firm, tho' obscured, the sacred dictates stand  
Implanted there by Heaven's creative hand.

Hence while loud Discord bids with giant pride  
Sad Desolation o'er the realms preside,  
Some nobler breasts neglected Virtue draws 70

To arm and vindicate her injured cause:  
Uncheck'd by doubt, by danger undismay'd,  
Prompt to redress when sorrow claims their aid,  
With equal hand they deal the avenging blow,  
And lay with joy the oppressive tyrant low; 75

But

# OF REFINEMENT.

41

But chief they glory when the generous care  
 Of weeping Beauty calls them to the war,  
 With dauntless arms her suppliant power they guard,  
 And deem her favouring smiles a full reward.  
 For the rough tribes thro' Northern wilds that stray'd 80  
 To female merit early deference paid,  
 The gentler sex partook the grave debate,  
 And more than shared the arduous toils of state.  
 The hardy warrior whose indignant mind  
 No arm could vanquish, and no law could bind, 85  
 To their commands a willing homage gave,  
 And each unconquer'd knight was Beauty's slave.  
 Amid the crimes that barbarous rudeness knows  
 Thus the fair form of Chivalry arose,  
 Join'd love's soft glow to valor's fiercer flame, 90  
 And mildly sooth'd the intemperate thirst of fame.  
 Its influence still, defying change and time,  
 Spreads o'er each modern EUROPEAN clime,  
 Lives spite of fickle mode's capricious rage,  
 And marks the manners of a polish'd age. 95

Tho' the rude Nations in their inroads bore  
 The wild Mythology of Northern lore,

F

Yet



Yet soon the splendor of the ROMAN rite  
 Caught with its mystic glare their dazzled sight.  
 To charm their grosser sense the Priests combine 100  
 Each monstrous fiction with a faith divine;  
 And all that feverish Fancy knows to paint,  
 The virgin martyr, and the warrior saint,  
 The fabled cure, and legendary tale,  
 With force resistless o'er their thoughts prevail. 105

While such the general impulse of the mind,  
 To Superstition, and to Arms inclined,  
 A frantic Hermit with enthusiast breath  
 Kindles the dreadful flames of war and death:  
 'Arouse ye chiefs of valiant fame! He cries, 110  
 'Lo! Heaven and Glory, point the bold emprise!—  
 'No more at human pity's humbler call  
 'On man's oppressors let your vengeance fall,  
 'Behold on SOLYMA's afflicted lands  
 'The injured Deity your zeal demands! 115  
 'The sacred ground by dying martyrs trod,  
 'The seats made holy by a bleeding GOD,  
 'MOHAMMED's sons with impious orgies stain,  
 'And soil the hallow'd earth with rites profane,

Bid

' Bid Resignation's patient votaries feel 120  
 ' The pangs of trying flame, and torturing steel,  
 ' Pollute with murder'd faints the dome divine,  
 ' And wash with blood JEHOVAH's awful shrine.  
 ' Go forth my sons! and with religious care  
 ' Spread your cross-banners streaming to the air! 125  
 ' Secure of praise! secure of conquest go!  
 ' And wreak heaven's vengeance on a heathen foe;  
 ' Fame's deathless guerdon shall the victor gain,  
 ' And crowns immortal sanctify the slain!  
 Fired by such words unusual ardors rise, 130  
 And far and wide the swift contagion flies,  
 All ranks, all orders to the impression yield,  
 And swarming millions croud the tented field.  
 Not such the numbers XERXES led of yore  
 From hostile PERSIA to the GRECIAN shore, 135  
 When his proud fleet the indignant billows chain'd,  
 And thirsty hosts the failing river drain'd.  
 The rash design tho' pious folly plan'd,  
 Tho' discord soon dissolved the inconstant band,  
 From scenes of war yet milder manners grew; 140  
 And man advantage from destruction drew.

The haughty chief to arm his numerous train,  
And grace with martial pomp the glittering plain,  
The wide demefnes of ancient tenure fold,  
And fiefs enfranchifed for the wanted gold : 145  
Whence the freed peafant chearful tills the foil,  
And bufy Commerce plies her active toil.  
While as the countless hofts in long array  
Thro' eaſtern EUROPE bend their tedious way,  
And view with wondering eyes the gay refort 150  
Of wealth, and ſplendor, to BYZANTIUM's court,  
The wrecks of ROMAN pride, and GRECIAN ſkill  
With new delight the aſtoniſh'd boſom fill.  
Tho' lured by Rapine, war unjuſt they wage,  
And waſte the Arts with more than VANDAL rage, 155  
Yet ſoon to ſcenes of elegance awake,  
A ſofter turn, and nobler aims they take,  
Each curious relic while they ſpoil admire,  
And plundering works of taſte, that taſte acquire.  
Even from the mixture of ARABIAN foes 160  
On the barbarian Weſt improvement roſe :  
The SARACEN had learn'd with liberal heart  
To love the paths of Science, and of Art,

The



# OF REFINEMENT.

45

The splendors of magnificence had known,  
 And deck'd in pomp each oriental throne, 165  
 But most his glowing Fancy loved to rove  
 Amid the devious maze of Fiction's grove,  
 And the luxuriance of the fabling lay  
 Struck EUROPE's ruder Bards with forceful sway;  
 The minstrel now who tuned his GOTHIC lyre 170  
 To teach the son the achievements of the fire,  
 Blends with the dreadful tale of blood and arms,  
 What eastern legends tell of magic charms,  
 Heightens the horror of the furious fight  
 With the wing'd dragon, and the enchanted knight, 175  
 And bids the bold Romance the hearer move  
 With the mix'd powers of Wonder, War, and Love.

While thus the Muse enjoys her infant dream,  
 Coy Reason still conceals her golden beam.  
 ROME's ancient language in impervious folds 180  
 From vulgar eyes each source of Wisdom holds,  
 And as they lift the subtle Priests dispense  
 The scanty shares of knowledge and of Sense.  
 Hence Learning rose, who insolent, and proud,  
 Looks down contemptuous on the admiring croud: 185

While,

While, as unmeaning rules the hearer vex,  
 And artful doubts the wilder'd thought perplex,  
 In the strict bands of letter'd form confined  
 Peculiar prejudice enslaves the mind.  
 Unlike Philosophy's bold sons of old 190  
 Who freely question'd what the instructor told,  
 O'eraw'd by Pride in education's hours  
 The timid mind distrusts its opening powers,  
 Worships each mystic knot by Error tied,  
 And blindly follows where its teachers guide, 195

ROME's legal Code at length on NAPLES' coast  
 By chance recover'd, as by ravage lost,  
 Soon wiser laws, the work of many an age,  
 Plan'd by the Prince, the Statesman, and the Sage,  
 Mix with the edicts framed in Error's school, 200  
 And smoothe the rigid form of Gothic rule;  
 Wisdom unseals charm'd Reason's drowsy eyes,  
 And once again ASTRAEA leaves the skies.  
 THEMIS abash'd, her folly taught to feel,  
 Less frequent makes to heaven the rash appeal, 205  
 And blushes to decide the doubtful right  
 By the hard Ordeal, or the lifted fight.

While

The

The haughty noble quits the civil sword,  
And the gown'd Judge succeeds the feudal Lord,  
Impartial Justice curbs the oppressive deed, 210  
And Science smiles from savage license freed.

Now from the Abbey's solitary site  
The imperfect glimmerings shone of classic light.  
The still recluse condemn'd for years to pore  
O'er the dull leaf of theologic lore, 215  
Awhile would quit fatigued the toilsome page  
To view the spoils of learning's happier age.

As there his curious eyes delighted trace  
The thoughts congenial of a warrior race,  
The attractive charm his ruder style refines, 220  
And with more art romantic fable shines.

Those precious relics of imperial ROME  
That haply chanced to scape the general doom,  
The scatter'd monuments of old delight,  
Strike the warm Fancy, and her powers excite: 225

The Latian Muse avows her native clime,  
And drops the servile bands of monkish rhyme:  
While flying from ROMANIA's ruin'd shore  
Westward the GREEKS their exiled learning bore.

O had



O had bright Science then with perfect grace 230  
 Her potent influence shed o'er EUROPE's race !  
 Their victor armies at MUSURUS' call, \*  
 Had chased the foe from sad BYZANTIUM's wall.  
 That source whence verse its purest charms derived,  
 The glorious voice of GREECE, had then survived ; 235  
 The docile ear by living masters taught  
 Had from their speech the genuine accents caught,  
 In native tones the Attic Muse had sung,  
 Nor mourn'd like Philomel her mangled tongue.  
 Again HESPERIA's happy seats behold 240  
 The sacred laurels bud that bloom'd of old.  
 Chear'd and protected by the papal throne,  
 The rising arts a LEO's bounty own.  
 Starts from the sculptured stone the breathing frame  
 To emulate the forms of ancient fame ; 245  
 The speaking canvass boasts a livelier hue  
 Than e'er APOLLO's plastic pencil drew,

\* MUSURUS was one of those learned GREEKS that fled into ITALY, on the destruction of the Eastern Empire, and were patronized by LEO X: to whom he addressed a Poem in classical GREEK, imploring him to excite the arms of the Christian world against the TURKS. The Poem is printed at the end of Dr. FOSTER's defence of GREEK accents: in which treatise is a happy application of the line in the old EPIGRAM alluded to V. 239.

Γλῶσσαν ἰμὼν ἰδίῃσι, καὶ ἰσχύϊν Ἑλλάδα φωνῇ.

As RAPHAEL's lines, or TITIAN's glowing dye,  
Bid the bold picture strike the enchanted eye.

In TUSCAN numbers TASSO's powers display 250

The solemn grandeur of the Epic lay ;  
While VIDA tunes to ROMAN strains the wire  
With VIRGIL's sweetness, and with VIRGIL's fire.

And even from northern BELGIA Science draws  
Superior strength to vindicate her cause. 255

The tedious manuscript no longer foils  
The verbal copyist's persevering toils,  
No more the expensive volumes only wait  
To deck the palace of the rich and great,  
On letter'd art the press new strength bestows, 260  
And ampler rays diffusive learning throws.

The encreasing powers of ripening sense pervade  
The gloomy stillness of the cloister's shade,  
Destroy the bonds that Reason's force confined,  
And burst the fetters that enchain'd the mind. 265

Tho' the lone Abbey from barbarian rage  
Saved the bright ruins of the classic page ;  
Tho' sometimes meek Religion's holy form  
Would faintly shine thro' Superstition's storm :

Yet every vice that shuns the face of day 270

Work'd in monastic night its secret way ;

Each impious wile the Church unceasing tries

That spreads her empire, or her stores supplies ;

Now on the expiring votary's heart employs

The enchanting vision of seraphic joys, 275

Now bids despair attend the parting breath,

And plants with thorns the trembling bed of death ;

Draws from the fears of languor and of pain

The rich possession, and the wide domain,

On the sad Widow's spoil the altar rears, 280

And bathes the sacred fane with Orphan tears.

Drunk with the vast excess of wealth and power,

Unmindful of returning Reason's hour,

The Church presumes to change the laws of Heaven,

And for vile lucre is the indulgence given. 285

Crimes even that Nature shudders to behold

Obtain their pardon for the stated gold, }

And impious leave for future vice is sold.

But the long reign of Gothic night is pass'd,

And Wisdom's awful morning dawns at last, 290

The



The fierce anathemas unheeded come,  
 And LUTHER shakes the enormous power of ROME.  
 The forms of Falsehood strive in vain to bear  
 The trying search of Truth's etherial spear,  
 Even those less happy regions that remain 295  
 Press'd by the weight of Error's galling chain,  
 Immersed in clouds of darkness tho' they seem,  
 Catch a faint twilight from the distant beam :  
 Convinced that true Religion's piercing eye  
 Will every source of pious fraud descry, 300  
 The furious priest corrects his cruel zeal,  
 And milder sway the breathing nations feel,  
 Mercy's soft calls the bigot's wrath assuage,  
 And papal thunder loses half its rage.

In GAUL the contrast strongly mark'd appears 305  
 Of Reason's force, and Error's gloomy fears :  
 With fond delight her partial eye surveys  
 Each hallow'd prejudice of earlier days,  
 Yet tho' her sons with ancient rite adore  
 The legendary saints that lived of yore, 310  
 Oft arm'd by hate tho' Persecution stood  
 And drench'd LUTETIA's walls with native blood ;

Hers was the earliest boast with lenient care  
 To form soft Courtesy's attractive air,  
 Throw o'er the willing mind Politeness' chains, 315  
 And raise that empire which she yet maintains.

But on BRITANNIA'S shores with ample sway  
 Religion's purest charms their power display.—  
 As the dread earthquake and the raging storm  
 The high behests of awful heaven perform, 320  
 So a proud tyrant's disappointed aims  
 Broke the strong tie of ROME's despotic claims.  
 The labors by the haughty fire begun  
 Attain perfection from the pious son;  
 And tho' a female's bigot zeal succeeds, 325  
 Burns the firm martyr, and the patriot bleeds,  
 While stand IBERIA'S sons exulting by  
 And civil freedom mark with harpy eye,  
 The transient terror flies, like vapors driven  
 By sweeping EURUS o'er the face of heaven, 330  
 And worship freed from each polluting stain,  
 Adorns the annals of ELIZA'S reign.

Hail glorious Queen! in whose propitious hour  
 The towering structure rose of BRITAIN'S power.

Let

Let the Historian laboring to impart 335  
His favorite paradox with envious art,  
Invoke capricious malice to deface  
The scene of ALBION's ripening strength and grace:  
Still shall the voice of former times be heard  
To vindicate that worth our fires revered: 340  
'Twas thine to bid BRITANNIA's native force  
Check rash Invasion in her headlong course,  
Old OCEAN's waves with prows triumphant sweep,  
And reign unrival'd o'er the subject deep:  
Thine too the milder glory to encrease 345  
The gentle sway of Courtesy and Peace.  
Tho' Artists with fastidious look behold  
The dome its rude magnificence unfold,  
Tho' modern elegance affect to scorn  
The rougher manners which thy court adorn, 350  
Yet sure some reverential awe shall wait  
Each venerable pile of ancient state;  
Yet sure some bosom even those days shall charm,  
When Love romantic, strengthening Valor's arm,  
Call'd each heroic passion boldly forth, 355  
And gave the admiring world a SIDNEY's worth.

The



The expectant Muse at length with joyful eyes  
 The rising hope of ancient fame descries.  
 Melodious SPENCER while his cares refine  
 The wild redundancy of the SAXON line, 360  
 On GOTHIC fable rears his rich machine,  
 And sings the paynim foe and elfin Queen:  
 While like the laurel'd son of GRECIAN fame  
 Immortal SHAKESPEAR burns with native flame.—  
 Unequal'd Bard! the grateful Muse shall raise 365  
 To thee the monument of deathless praise,  
 Nor interweave one flower of foreign bloom  
 Amid the votive wreaths that deck thy tomb:  
 For no faint blaze from elder learning caught  
 Raised in thy breast the imitative thought; 370  
 Nor shall my verse compare thy glorious page  
 With the best scenes of ATHENS' perfect stage,  
 Or of thy Phoenix wing a rival own  
 Save the MÆONIAN Prodigy alone.

A numerous train of tuneful Bards succeed, 375  
 Strike the loud lyre, or fill the warbling reed.  
 In the just pride of inborn Genius bold,  
 Yet taught by every Muse that charm'd of old,

Soaring

Soaring with eagle eye, and eagle flight,  
 Amid the realms of empyrean light, 380  
 Lo MILTON throws with daring hand away  
 The splendid fetters of the Runic lay!  
 While DRYDEN's clear harmonious notes rehearse  
 The humblest subject in the sweetest verse,  
 Nor ask the figured style or pompous phrase, 385  
 From common speech his simplest lines to raise;  
 Yet when some theme with energy sublime  
 Calls forth the wonders of his varied rhyme,  
 'Tis his to catch the animating fire,  
 Bid the bold strain to giddy heights aspire, } 390  
 Rival the MANTUAN swan, or mate the THEBAN lyre.

But while fair Poesy with favoring smile  
 Beholds her votaries thrive in ALBION's isle,  
 The meeker Arts with trembling step explore  
 Some safe asylum on a foreign shore, 395  
 For o'er her fields stern War terrific stood,  
 And long and dreadful raged the thirst of blood.—  
 Tho' the poetic bay with changeless form  
 Braves the worst fury of the thundering storm,

The

The inferior flowers that paint the shelter'd vale 400  
 Shrink at the breath of every ruder gale.—  
 Soon polish'd GALLIA's hospitable plain  
 Yields a kind refuge to the exiled train,  
 For civil Fury from her seats was flown,  
 And Monarchy had fix'd her stable throne, 405  
 Their gifts the smiling powers of Peace disclose,  
 And LEWIS there a new AUGUSTUS rose:  
 A Prince's wiles again the Arts invoke  
 With magic touch to lighten Slavery's yoke,  
 Reason's keen eye with skilful care to blind, 410  
 And turn from Freedom's view the active mind.  
 The grateful race encouraged by his sway  
 The patronage with ample bounty pay,  
 Give what his fleets and armies ne'er could claim,  
 Unfullied glory, and unenvied fame. 415  
 For tho' a BRITISH Muse would blush to aid  
 The guilty fabrick by Ambition made,  
 Yet to impartial rules of Justice true  
 She gives the praise to real merit due.—  
 Not opening Science nor encouraged Art 420  
 Alone their lustre to his reign impart:

The



The splendid period by his care refined  
Marks a strong era of the improving mind.  
By him new model'd wondering EUROPE saw  
Her ancient arms, her manners, and her law. 425  
Tho' dear the price each fair attainment cost,  
When in the exchange was independence lost.  
Beauty with sense endow'd, with sweetness graced,  
Sits the chief arbitress of soften'd taste,  
And fame attends, as her applauding eyes 430  
Of valor or of wit, award the prize.  
No more the rural Lord mid distant plains  
O'er vassal fiefs a little tyrant reigns ;  
To the gay circle of the monarch's court  
All power, all splendor, and all arts resort, 435  
There steep'd in joy the gentle train reside  
And change for royal smiles provincial pride.  
While marshal'd Discipline with studious care  
Gives a new semblance to the forms of war :  
No more, their stated service forced to yield, 440  
Untrain'd the hasty levies throng the field,  
No more the stripling of illustrious birth  
Leads armies by hereditary worth :

H

An

An order of the state the Soldier stands,  
And tho' a slave himself the rest commands, 445  
Derives his rank from regal will alone,  
And only pays obedience to the throne.

While GALLIA thus a general power obtains  
And guides mankind by soft Opinion's reins,  
Long was the scene of bleeding BRITAIN's woes 450  
Ere from the strife emerging Peace arose.  
Each party yields at times, at times prevails,  
As changing Fortune lifts her dubious scales;  
Till lost, or scatter'd, Virtue's Patriot train,  
Her cause deserted, and her HAMBDEN slain, 455  
Contending sects fulfill'd a Tyrant's view,  
And Faction seized the sword that Freedom drew;  
In civil rage each gentler care was drown'd,  
And fierce on joy the wild enthusiast frown'd.  
Nor when reviving ALBION saw restored 460  
Her ravish'd sceptre, and her legal lord,  
Did liberal art the polish'd lustre boast  
That mark'd each work of GALLIA's rival coast,  
Licentious vice a laughing court debased,  
And looser manners tainted public taste. 465

Nor

Nor could a graver prince intent alone  
To change religion on his tottering throne,  
From a short reign of struggle and of care  
One transient smile to prostrate Science spare.  
And tho' we own with deference and with awe, 470  
The public virtues that adorn'd NASSAU,  
Yet candor must confess his rigid mind  
No pleasure sooth'd, no elegance refined.  
At length BRITANNIA's sons with transport view  
Another Queen their ancient fame renew, 475  
Once more the prize in Arts and Arms obtain,  
And see ELIZA's days revived in ANNA's reign.  
Whate'er of wisdom, and whate'er of grace,  
Could form or dignify the human race,  
Taught ALBION now her splendid worth to raise, 480  
Beyond the envied height of classic praise.  
For say could all the learned sage display'd  
In ACADEMUS, or the TUSCAN shade,  
Compare with NEWTON, whose immortal force  
Pursued coy nature to her inmost source, 485  
Or LOCKE who knew with lynx's eye to find  
Man's secret soul, and analyse the mind?



Or shall the portrait in the brightest page  
 Of ROME's Refinement rival ANNA's age?  
 Where, tho' Politeness now of freer school 490  
 Condemn Formality's too rigid rule,  
 Adorn'd by Reason, converse learn'd to please,  
 And manly dignity attemper'd ease,  
 Public attention waited conscious worth,  
 And liberal manners mark'd illustrious birth. 495  
 The Muses too their tuneful powers employ,  
 And the loud Pæan join of general joy:  
 What tho' their voice strikes not the ravish'd ear  
 With notes that GREECE and ROME were wont to hear,  
 Yet when sweet POPE's melodious lines convey 500  
 The moral subject in the perfect lay,  
 To BRITISH numbers charms unknown impart,  
 And varied sounds combine with happiest art,  
 Rap'd with delight AONIA's listening throng  
 Drink the soft accents of the dulcet song, 505  
 And own the immortal strains of earlier time  
 Are nearly rival'd in a northern clime,  
 By verse of GOTHIC frame and manacled with rhyme.

Tho'

Tho' BRITAIN must revere the kings who draw  
 Their royal claims from Liberty and Law, 510  
 In holy Freedom's pure regalia shine,  
 And deem a people's voice their right divine :  
 Yet midst her patrons Science cannot place  
 The earliest monarchs of the BRUNSWICK race.  
 No princely favor kindles Genius' flame ; 515  
 Or raises modest worth to wealth or fame ;  
 To private vanity the artists trust,  
 Whence the stiff portrait, and the unmeaning bust,  
 While her Pagodas gaudy CHINA rears,  
 And CIBBER's brow the sullied laurel wears. 520

But see ! a Prince succeeds whose generous heart  
 The liberal Patron glows of every art,  
 The slumbering train warm'd by his chearing smile  
 Break from their trance, and polish ALBION's isle.  
 Yet tho' MEDUSA's torpid charm is shewn 525  
 Reversed, as Sculpture shapes the PARIAN stone,  
 By Architecture tho' the dome is graced  
 With all the ornaments of ATTIC taste,  
 Tho' drawn by Painting's animating hand  
 With life, with character, the portraits stand ; 530

Yet

Yet BRITAN's candid Sons shall scorn to vie  
 With arts that flourish'd 'neath ITALIA's sky,  
 Where the warm'd breast enthusiast transport fired,  
 And holy zeal each glowing tint inspired.  
 Theirs be the unenvied triumph! — while applause 535  
 From her inventive powers BRITANNIA draws.  
 The stores in Natures rural empire placed  
 To chuse with judgement, and arrange with taste,  
 O'er the soft grace her genuine forms impart  
 To throw the simple stole of decent art, 540  
 For the high fountain, and the pent cascade,  
 Cyphers of turf, and cabinets of shade,  
 To teach the wave in graceful bends to flow,  
 To crown with wood the mountains heathy brow,  
 And bid the flower and blooming shrub succeed 545  
 The rugged bramble, and the loathsome weed,  
 This be her glory! — pleased to shine alone  
 In native charms, and beauty all her own:  
 Secure her fame unhurt by time shall stand,  
 Since MASON's verse records what BROWN has plan'd. 550  
 But ah! while thus the Arts inferior train  
 Thrive in the sunshine of a GEORGE's reign;

Sweet



Sweet Poesy, whose sacred powers exceed  
The Sculptor's chisel, and the Painter's reed,  
Whose pen has Virtue's moral shape design'd, 555  
And drawn the immortal image of the mind,  
Whose magic sounds to melody dispense  
The flowers of fancy, and the force of sense ;  
Sweet Poesy, neglected and forlorn,  
The feeble rays of patronage must mourn. 560  
By wealth or wisdom placed in happier state  
Tho' a bold few disdain to court the great ;  
Tho' MASON frame the warm descriptive lay,  
Or strike the lyre with PINDAR, and with GRAY ;  
Tho' listening Harmony with raptured ear 565  
Attentive stand, the enchanting notes to hear,  
As sailing on the rainbow-tinctured wings  
Of chaste imagination, HAYLEY sings :  
In plaintive strains at sighing Friendship's call  
Tho' tuneful SEWARD mourn her ANDRE's fall, 570  
And wrap the felon cord that closed his breath  
In radiant Glory's amaranthine wreath ;  
Tho' WARTON young-eyed Fancy's favorite child,  
On whose auspicious birth the Muses smiled,

And

And taught his glowing colors to portray 575  
 The rural landscape, and the vernal day,  
 With classic art his flowing numbers fill,  
 And join the critic's to the poet's skill ;  
 Yet as with streaming eye the sorrowing Muse  
 Pale CHATTERTON's untimely urn bedews, 580  
 Her accents shall arraign the partial care  
 That shielded not her son from cold despair :  
 And many a bard by frowning Fortune led  
 To abject interest bows the venal head,  
 Compell'd to point with cruel wit the dart 585  
 That wing'd by malice rives the blameless heart,  
 Or ideot pride by slavish notes to raise,  
 And cast to swine the precious gems of praise.  
 O let, Imperial GEORGE ! the Muses share  
 The kindly dew of thy parental care. 590  
 Too oft has Poesy with servile aim  
 By tyrants favor'd, sung a tyrant's fame,  
 O let one monarch wake her nobler rage,  
 And consecrate to truth her holy page !  
 Raised by thy hand, I see on ALBION's plain 595  
 The seeds of GRECIAN glory bloom again !

See

See Genius plume once more her eagle wing,  
 Hear other HOMERS, other SHAKESPEARS sing!  
 And while their voice down time's eternal flood  
 Wafts the clear honors of the wise and good, 600  
 Ages unborn shall bless the just decree,  
 And future Heroes owe their fame to thee.

Here let us pause, — attentive to survey  
 The present æra of REFINEMENT's sway.  
 As in some perfect scene of BRITAIN's isle, 605  
 Where all the charms of cultured Nature smile,  
 To velvet lawns, and flowery shades, succeed  
 The furrow'd champain, and the irriguous mead,  
 Then woods, and heaths in soft perspective rise,  
 Till rough the distant mountains meet the skies; 610  
 So let our search the changing picture trace  
 Thro' all the different tribes of human race;  
 The strong gradations mark with curious eye  
 'Midst civil and barbarian life that lie,  
 From EUROPE's crouded towns and inmates mild, 615  
 To the rude savage, and the dreary wild.

Conspicuous rising o'er the wonderous scene,  
 Of arts and arms, tho' EUROPE shine the Queen



Yet even her offspring from REFINEMENT share  
Unequal influence, and a partial care. 620

With studious zeal the polish'd sons of FRANCE  
Lead up attractive Pleasure's airy dance,  
Each varied mark of character forsake  
One pliant form of general mode to take,  
The fairest wreaths from Courtesy to claim 625  
Their first ambition, and their proudest aim.

Not so BRITANNIA, on her bleaker plains  
Still wild caprice in spite of Science reigns  
No central court there all distinction draws,  
No judge directs of critic art the laws, 630  
All as they list presume to regulate  
The page of learning and the powers of state,  
Indignant cast each servile rule away,  
Nor even in Taste admit despotic sway.—  
No ductile texture can the mind acquire 635  
Mid Faction's storms, and Freedom's glowing fire:  
The amorous youth at Party's noisy call  
Quits for the grave debate the lively ball;  
And in the social scenes of softer grace  
Will Business oft intrude with serious face, 640

While

While Politicks on public cares decide,  
And settle EUROPE's rights by Beauty's side.

Tho' ITALY first saw reviving Art,  
And wakening Science sooth again the heart,  
She loiters now in Glory's bright career, 645  
Nor longer pants the prize of fame to wear;  
Damp'd is the bold Historian's generous fire,  
Numb'd the free hand, and mute the living lyre.  
Yet her's the boast with skillful touch to bring  
The sweetest sounds from Music's trembling string, 650  
To bid full Harmony with swelling note  
In undulating lays of Rapture float,  
The liquid strains of melody prolong,  
And lap the soul in extasy of song.

IBERIA's sons, of yore who foremost strove 655  
In the bright lists of valor and of love,  
Who caught in early time each softer grace  
From their brave victors of the MOORISH race,  
(No more to emulation's call awake,  
The paths of Glory and of Art forsake. — 660  
What time COLUMBUS taught them to explore  
The treasured wonders of the ATLANTIC shore,

Gold, all corrupting gold with fatal charm  
 Entranced the bosom, and unnerved the arm,  
 And lazy Avarice every wish confines. 665  
 To the rich produce of the INDIAN mines.  
 While Bigotry, whose blast no power survives,  
 Thro' the waste realms with furious whirlwind drives,  
 And bids them Heaven's avenging Justice feel  
 For fell PIZARRO's flames, and CORTEZ' murderous steel. 670

In BELGIA o'er a people's prostrate heads  
 Her universal reign where Commerce spreads,  
 The thirst of gain absorbs all other care,  
 And few the votaries of **REFINEMENT** there.  
 While in **GERMANIA** endless forms conspire 675  
 To damp the ingenuous glow of native fire,  
 The Herald's blazon, and the Noble's pride,  
 The different ranks so rigidly divide,  
 That deepest Science, and exalted worth,  
 Can ne'er o'erleap the casual bar of birth. 680  
 Besides such empty claims the thoughts employ,  
 So nlog the free exchange of social joy,  
 Such serious trifles so engage the taste,  
 Such dire effects attend a name misplaced,

That



# OF REFINEMENT.

69

That far the gentler Graces wing their flight, 685  
Nor bear the drudgery to grow polite.

Yet the strong marks of characters like these  
Fade every hour and vanish by degrees. —  
Those numerous causes that with different force  
Have bias'd, or opposed, REFINEMENT'S course, 690  
Have dim'd her radiant beams with fullen gloom,  
Or veil'd the lustre of her native bloom,  
With daily lapse their weaken'd influence lose,  
One general form as GALLIA'S arts diffuse,  
What Prejudice destroy'd, or Error stain'd, 695  
By imitative zeal is now regain'd  
And EUROPE'S changing race with common care  
Affect her manners, and assume her air.

Piercing the dull expanse of Northern skies  
At length in RUSSIAN climes the Arts arise: 700  
Already by a patriot Monarch fought,  
Had Industry each rougher Science taught,  
And now those joys that graver toil beguile,  
The favoring warmth confess of CATHERINE'S smile.  
O glorious Princess! lo the sorrowing Muse 705  
Thy great designs with anxious look pursues!

69A

For

For as she frequent bends her weeping eye  
 To scenes on EUROPE'S utmost bound that lie,  
 And sees pale Tyranny's oppressive throne  
 Triumphant rear'd, o'er regions once her own, 710  
 A gleam of hope awhile her anguish charms  
 Drawn from thy generous aims, and conquering arms:  
 She views in Fancy's dream thy Victor host  
 Drive the grim Despot from the GRECIAN coast,  
 Sees EUROPEAN Freedom bless the shore, 715  
 And Science grace her favorite seats once more:  
 ASIA'S wide realms, on whose propitious earth  
 First teeming Genius gave REFINEMENT birth,  
 Lie the sad objects of barbarian sway,  
 To tyrants fierce, and fiercer lusts a prey. 720  
 For on her eastern plain's extremest verge  
 Her early claims tho' distant CHINA urge,  
 Tho' Arts which EUROPE saw of late unfold  
 Inform'd she boasts her wiser chiefs of old;  
 Yet as her jealous sons have never join'd 725  
 The common intercourse of human kind,  
 To each fond tale the traveller displays  
 A doubtful credit wavering Reason pays;  
 And

And Learning fears the incurious race to own,  
Of all unknowing, and by all unknown. 730

What else exists beneath the cope of heaven  
Is to the savage tribe of wanderers given,  
Who unrefrain'd by precept or by law,  
From climate, and from soil, their difference draw.  
The fable African no culture boasts, 735  
Fierce as his sun, and ruthless as his coasts;  
And where the immeasurable forests spread  
Beyond the extent of Ocean's western bed,  
Unsocial, uninform'd, the tawney race  
Range the drear wild, and urge the incessant chace. 740  
Amid the wild expanse of southern seas  
Where the blest isles inhale the genial breeze,  
The happier native in the fragrant grove  
Woos the soft powers of Indolence and Love;  
But where more keen the ray, more rude the gale, 745  
Manners less mild and harsher cares prevail;  
Till in the sad extremes of polar frost,  
The sacred beam of human reason lost,  
Man scarcely rises from the shaggy brood  
That prowls insatiate o'er the icy flood. 750

Dire



Dire were the scene!—but EUROPE's gentler kind,  
 Tempting the billowy deep and fickle wind,  
 With venturous prow's each distant seat explore,  
 And boldly tread the inhospitable shore;  
 Tame the wild waste, correct the unwholesome air, 755  
 And fix of polish'd life the empire there.

On AFRIC's southmost point their happy toil  
 Bids gay POMONA cloath the sultry soil,  
 Their power on ASIA's eastern coast commands,  
 And GANGES flows by EUROPEAN lands: 760

In the vast tracts beyond the ATLANTIC main  
 Their Arts, their Science, and their Manners reign,  
 Where rising Glory soars with pinion young,  
 And imitates the parent whence she sprung:

While (civil Discord's bloody storm o'erblown,) 765  
 ALBION, her brave descendants proud to own,

'Lo these my sons! exulting shall exclaim,  
 'Who caught from me immortal Freedom's flame,  
 'And firmly zealous in the holy cause,  
 'Extend o'er half the globe BRITANNIA's laws: 770

May EUROPE's race the generous toil pursue,  
 And Truth's broad mirror spread to every view;

Awake

Awake

Awake to Reason's voice the savage mind,  
Check Error's force, and civilize mankind ;  
Faith's radiant beam impart to farthest climes,  
And teach pure Wisdom undebased by crimes ;  
To the free breeze the swelling sail unfold  
Impell'd by Virtue, not allured by Gold.

775

No more with arms the trembling tribes destroy,  
But soft Persuasion's gentler powers employ,  
Till, from her throne barbarian Rudeness hurl'd,  
REFINEMENT spread her Empire o'er the world.

780

K

CON-





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P R O G R E S S  
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R E F I N E M E N T.

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P A R T III.

**T**HUS far with cautious Pencil have I traced  
The striking forms on History's tablet placed.  
Harder the task on Truth's unblemish'd page  
To sketch the living features of the age,  
Each transient character with care define, 5  
And catch the fleeting shape with ready line;  
Contrast the manners modern times display  
With the Refinements of an earlier day;  
Mark what from chance, or custom, softness draws,  
And seek with curious eye each latent cause; 10  
Shew Virtue's sinking worth, or kindling flame,  
And give impartial praise, or candid blame.  
In



In ROME, while ROME's meridian power was graced  
With the bright era of AUGUSTAN taste,  
Tho' Art's skill'd votaries reach'd their utmost goal, 15  
Tho' social pleasure sooth'd the liberal soul,  
Yet rude the joys, and coarse the manners shew,  
To those which EUROPE's modern nations know,  
Where sweet benevolence the expression warms,  
Dwells on the tongue, and every accent forms. 20  
Nor is the exterior semblance bright alone,  
A specious veil o'er selfish passion thrown;  
The gentle bosom real kindness feels,  
And o'er the soften'd mind Affection steals;  
Pity and Horror watch o'er human life, 25  
And Murder trembling drops his fatal knife.  
Even War, terrific War! has learn'd to wear  
A milder garb, and features less severe:  
The fury of the doubtful conflict o'er,  
Tho' gorged with death, and red with streaming gore, 30  
The valiant captive meets attentive care,  
And vanquish'd foes fraternal kindness share;  
Humanity still meek and prompt to save,  
Heals every wound the bleeding combat gave,

Bids

# OF REFINEMENT.

79

Bids the worst horrors of the battle cease, 35

And lends BELLONA half the charms of peace.

Politeness too its nicest skill employs,

And gives the last fine touch to human joys,

Sweetly combines with unaffected ease

The care to aid us, and the wish to please. 40

Far from that pertness whose capricious fit

Deems satire freedom, and ill manners wit,

Mistakes fastidious pride for judgement chaste,

And thinks that censure shews superior taste :

Far from that fulsome flattery Dulness pays 45

Who servile adulation takes for praise,

The eye on every latent foible draws,

And gives an insult where she means applause.

And far, o far ! from that insidious aim

Which screens deceit beneath REFINEMENT's name, 50

The selfish smile, the promise insincere,

And all the rules of Fashion's favorite peer.

But that smooth polish elegant, and bright,

Which placing merit in the fairest light,

By soft compliance rude ill-temper veils, 55

And half reforms the vices it conceals.

Say

Say from what source shall keen enquiry trace  
 These striking characters of gentler grace?—  
 Numerous the varied springs whose powers combined  
 Direct and regulate the ductile mind.— 60  
 First that blest fountain of serene delight,  
 Meek-eyed Religion's mild unsullied rite,  
 The patient votary's humbled breast imbues  
 With heavenly Charity's ambrosial dews,  
 In vain the Infidel's o'erweening pride 65  
 Affects her hallow'd dictates to deride,  
 Exalts the wisdom of the ancient school,  
 And boasts of moral virtue's rigid rule;  
 By Christian Faith the perfect doctrines taught  
 Shall mock Philosophy's sublimest thought, 70  
 In the clear beams of Truth celestial shine,  
 And speak their Holy Teacher all divine.  
 Thence even the stubborn Sceptic mildness draws,  
 And feels their influence tho' he scorn their laws.

The sacred rights of human Nature known, 75  
 From EUROPE's climes has exiled slavery flown,  
 Who saw of old her sable wing display  
 A gloomy shade o'er Freedom's brightest day.—

O could



# OF REFINEMENT.

81

O could my verse forget she still defiles  
The sunny regions of the ATLANTIC isles! 80

Still dwells amidst the hardier race that try  
In fields of blood for BRITISH Liberty!

There the sad LIBYAN bought in shameful trade,  
Vanquish'd by foes, or by his chiefs betray'd,  
Waits from his cruel lord's remorseless breath 85

The doom of labor, insult, stripes, and death.  
Where such the fatal gifts from home ye brought  
Such the dire lessons Parent EUROPE taught?—

Ah no!—beneath her inimical skies  
Blasted at once the venom'd monster dies. 90

Bold Chivalry employ'd her earliest care  
To smoothe the rugged brow of frowning War,  
Valor's fierce form by Courtesy refined,  
And bent to Mercy's sway the headstrong mind.

She taught her gallant votaries to forego 95  
Each mean advantage o'er a prostrate foe,  
And shew'd her pupils rear'd in Error's gloom,  
To shame the polish'd chiefs of GREECE and ROME.

Crown'd by success, and deck'd in impious pride,  
See in stern pomp the imperious Consul ride, 100

L

With

With each sad victim of uncertain war  
 Drag'd in remorseless triumph at his car,  
 While Kings and Chiefs superior insult know,  
 And only feel pre-eminence in woe.

O had of GOTHIC days the rudest knight 105  
 Seen these barbarians, falsely deem'd polite  
 Shout as the wretched Hero pass'd along,  
 Scorn'd and affronted by the unfeeling throng,  
 How had he turn'd aside the indignant eye  
 As the dire pageant mov'd exulting by, 110  
 To curse the hearts that selfish maxims steel,  
 And execrate the effects of patriot zeal.—

Now view on nearer POITIER's trophied plain  
 The gentler triumphs of BRITANNIA's train!  
 Tho' every taunt swol'n Insolence could give 115  
 Warm in the Victor's glowing breast must live,  
 Yet when aloft o'er ENGLAND's valiant few  
 With unexpected pinion Conquest flew,  
 And GAUL's pale Genius sunk her flagging wing,  
 And mourn'd her slaughter'd Peers and captive King; 120  
 No keen resentment edged the BRITISH sword,  
 No biting insult barb'd one cruel word,

But

But godlike EDWARD mild in fortune's hour  
 Sooth'd the sad Prince-dethroned from regal power,  
 To vanquish'd greatness generous homage paid 125  
 And served the prisoner that his sword had made.

Even those destructive tubes whose fiery breath  
 Spreads wide the scenes of carnage and of death,  
 Tho' their dread roar the novice ear affright,  
 Aid mercy's power and humanize the fight. 130  
 Unseen each blow, no warrior treads the plain  
 Demanding vengeance for a brother slain,  
 No favorite kill'd awakes PELIDES' hate,  
 No spoils of PALLAS urge a TURNUS' fate,  
 From hands unknown the mortal stroke is given, 135  
 And every bullet seems a bolt from heaven.

Yet, to the chiefs of elder time unknown,  
 Punctilious rage from feudal Honor grown  
 Provokes for spleenful wrongs the deadly strife,  
 And claims in private war the forfeit life.— 140  
 But tho' too plainly from this dreadful cause  
 A milder aspect general converse draws,  
 Let not my verse applauding, move to chide  
 The weeping Orphan, or the widow'd Bride,



Awake the trembling Matron's anxious fears, 145  
Or ope the sacred source of Beauty's tears.

No!—let us turn from fields of death the view,  
And the calm scenes of softer peace pursue.  
Their placid sway the gentler sex impart,  
Refine the manners, and improve the heart, 150  
From the harsh breast each sterner thought remove,  
And tune the yielding soul to joy and love.

No barbarous Jealousy's misjudging care  
Severely watches o'er the imprison'd fair,  
No household Tyrant fixes Beauty's doom, 155  
To ply the incessant web and servile loom,  
Nor does the mind allured by PLATO's dream,  
Verging to Folly's opposite extreme,  
It's bosom's Queen in hues ethereal paint  
And deem the blooming maid the impassive saint. 160

Daughters of Love! they shine with native power,  
And bless the lone, and grace the social hour,  
With spotless truth, and ardent passion, blend  
The enchanting mistress, and the faithful friend,  
Each fonder joy that lessens grief dispense, 165  
Convince the reason and delight the sense.

With

With bashful coyness temper fierce desire,  
And lead by virtue while by charms they fire.

The potent force of such resistless sway  
Inspires the Muse, and governs every lay ; 170  
The tender Bard exerts his utmost skill,  
And all our strains pathetic warblings fill.

The Drama lays her awful robe aside  
Of gloomy horror, and terrific pride,  
Content alone the gentle mind to move 175

With the sad story of distressful love.—  
Delightful Art!—tho' first in shapeless guise  
Reviving Genius saw thy form arise,

When the rude bigot on the barbarous stage  
Produced the mysteries of the holy page ; 180  
Soon AVON's towering eagle bore thy name  
Beyond the exalted flights of ATTIC fame.

Tho' nicer skill succeeding times demand,  
Tho' now correctness prune with cautious hand,  
With scorn tho' GALLIA view the GOTHIC school, 185  
Attentive to adopt each ancient rule,

While the deep pathos, and the bold sublime,  
Escape her dull harangues, and duller rhyme.

Not

Not all her precepts form'd by critic care  
 Shewn in the flowing numbers of VOLTAIRE, 190  
 Not even the GRECIAN Muse, who stalks a Queen  
 With solemn footstep o'er the crouded scene,  
 And by her numerous Choir attended, sings  
 The splendid fate of magistrates and kings,  
 Shall with our SHAKESPEAR vie, whose every thought 195  
 Drawn from sensation, and by Nature taught,  
 Defies the slavish rules of scenic art,  
 And speaks at once conviction to the heart.  
 Yet now his track no daring bard pursues,  
 No more the stage is trod by History's Muse; 200  
 No Tyrants there the pangs of conscience own,  
 No Furies haunt the Usurper on his throne;  
 With softer anguish Tragedy prevails,  
 And deeds of horror yield to plaintive tales,  
 While full the sympathetic currents flow 205  
 At each affecting scene of humbler woe.  
 Even Comedy who used with jocund grace  
 To dress in chearful smiles the applauding face,  
 Oft quits the playful scourge of ridicule,  
 Spares the pert coxcomb, and the pompous fool, 210  
 The



The winning form of gentle pity wears,  
And unsuspected cheats us into tears.

And see in amorous style the Novel dress'd  
With sentimental sorrow melts the breast,  
Swells the fair bosom with the heaving sigh, 215  
And fills with drops of grief the virgin's eye.  
Perhaps too far the enchanting lore imparts  
Its keen sensations to unguarded hearts;  
The tender scenes by Vice tho' oft design'd  
So rivet to the page the attentive mind, 220  
So know with glowing tales of Love to sooth  
The soft unpracticed ear of female youth,  
That many a Maid rap'd by their magic power  
Steals from her custom'd rest the midnight hour  
To trace thro' lengthen'd tomes of grief display'd 225  
The monstrous shapes by Folly's hand portray'd;  
Whence the perverted Fancy learns to lose  
The sweet attractions of the chaster Muse.—  
Awake to each fictitious feeling grown,  
And moved by ills to real life unknown, 230  
The mind, with scenes of fabled woe possess'd,  
Will shut to homely grief the senseless breast,  
And turn from Want and Pain the offended ear,  
To pour for feign'd distress the barren tear. Wide

Wide too her wave has swelling Knowledge spread, 235  
 And the full stream surrounding Nations fed.  
 With unremitting care the sage of old  
 Each maze of Science labor'd to unfold,  
 Hung o'er the tedious page with aching fight  
 Toil'd thro' the day, and watch'd the wintry night: 240  
 But teeming presses now around diffuse  
 The monthly magazine and daily news,  
 Where bards on bards in endless train succeed,  
 And all pretend to judge, who know to read.

Whate'er pursuits the attentive mind employ 245  
 Must mark our manners with a strong alloy.  
 Gaming a feature of the human frame  
 In various states and various climes the same,  
 Can the warm'd breast with strong sensation strike,  
 And rude and courtly bosoms charms alike. 250  
 For this old Rome's luxurious youth would flight\*  
 The healthful labour, and the sportive fight;

\* V. 251. —Nescit equo rudis  
 Hære ingenuus Puer;  
 Venarique timet, ludere doctior  
 Seu Græco jubeas trocho,  
 Seu malis vetita legibus alea.

*Hor. Od. 24. Lib. 3.*

For

For this among the extended woods that spread  
 Where the blue GERMAN hid his restless head,\*  
 The rugged inmates won by lust of play 255  
 Dear life, and dearer freedom gave away :  
 Even in the dusky tribes by Nature placed  
 Mid the lone horrors of the ATLANTIC waste,  
 Where scarce the claim of property obtains,  
 In savage fury dreadful, Gaming reigns. 260  
 Hence tho' the sons of wealth in this delight  
 Now waste with wakeful toil the livelong night,  
 Tho' on one stake will ample fortunes lie,  
 And mortgaged manors wait a single die ;  
 Yet here no form peculiar can we trace 265  
 No striking character of modern race.  
 But Cards by dull invention first design'd  
 To sooth a frantic Monarch's listless mind, †  
 O'er EUROPE now extend their strong controul,  
 And almost seem to fascinate the soul : 270

\* V. 254. Aleam (quod mirere) sobrii inter seria exercent, tanta lucrandi perdendive temeritate, ut quum omnia defecerunt, extremo ac novissimo jactu de libertate et de corpore contendunt. *Tacitus de morib. Germ.*

† V. 268. Cards are said to have been invented in the year 1390 to divert the melancholy of CHARLES VI. of FRANCE.



Of every calling, and of every state,  
 The grave, the gay, the humble, and the great,  
 Save the hard sons of wretched labor, fed  
 By daily drudgery, with daily bread,  
 How few but give to this unmeaning play 275  
 Three tedious hours from every circling day !  
 Nor let the serious Muse tho' light they seem,  
 Beneath her solemn care such trifles deem ;  
 Weak masters tho' they be, their potent art  
 Gives a strong tincture to the human heart : 280  
 As the fang'd brood hot LIBYA's sands among  
 Tho' by fierce rage or maddening hunger stung,  
 If the clear stream their form reflected shew,  
 Loose all their vengeance on the shadowy foe ;  
 So here those powers by Reason unrepres'd 285  
 Whose furious whirlwinds shook the human breast,  
 Bade with deep wounds contending nations bleed,  
 And urged the daring, or the atrocious deed,  
 In trifling cares their idle force engage,  
 And waste on mimic forms their harmless rage.— 290  
 Yet let not Fashion's modern votaries boast  
 Of harsher manners thro' their influence lost,

If

If life's severer evils they subdue,  
 And smoothe the rugged mind, they weaken too;  
 If savage hate they quell, and wild desire, 295  
 They damp the Poet's, and the Patriot's fire,  
 The fervid glow of Friendship's flame remove,  
 And almost quench the golden lamp of Love.

Her magic powers as pleasure thus combines,  
 Each bosom softens and each care refines, 300  
 Still sure the scenes of opulence to share,  
 Spreads Luxury her splendid empire there;  
 On EUROPE's lap is pour'd the varied store  
 Of every climate, and of every shore.  
 For her ARABIA gives her rich perfume, 305  
 And labors for her eye the PERSIAN loom;  
 For her the INDIAN culls with fainting toil  
 The spicy harvests of his sultry soil;  
 In her cool air removed from ASIAN fields  
 Its luscious juice the ripe Anana yields; 310  
 And Industry with busy care supplies  
 The want of glowing lands, and sultry skies,  
 While all the fruits that Summer heats afford,  
 With blush untimely deck December's board;

Spring throws her mantle o'er the freezing hours, 315

And hoary Winter binds his brow with flowers.

The swelling sail in climes remote unfurl'd,

Wafts home the produce of another world.

No more the bark steer'd by the starry ray;

With prow uncertain plows the watery way; 320

But guided by that gem whose mystic power

To Arctic regions points in every hour,

Commerce new oceans ventures to explore,

And launches boldly from the lessening shore,

Dares the dread wonders of the deep unfold, 325

And toils at once for glory and for gold.

But does not Reason's faithful mirror shew

The future prospect of distress and woe,

And point what dangers modern softness wait

In the sad tale of ROME's declining state?— 330

Far yet such fears!—unnnumber'd checks there lie

To stop the fatal flight of Luxury.

First, a less dangerous form its power receives

From the strong influence Beauty's empire gives.

Of culinary skill the enormous waste 335

Offends with dull disgust her nicer taste;

Grandeur



Grandeur must art as well as wealth display,  
 And appetite to elegance give way.  
 Foul Glutony, his beastly empire o'er,  
 Now snuffs the bleeding Hecatomb no more ; 340  
 The rosy filk, and glittering gem, adorn  
 No rich tiara by the tyrant worn ;  
 The flowing muslin in resplendent folds  
 No bloated son of selfish passion holds ;  
 A nobler end the gifts of Commerce share, 345  
 And deck with heighten'd charms the lovely fair ;  
 The snowy lawn's transparent web displays  
 The panting bosom to the enamour'd gaze ;  
 For them the loom its dædal labor plies,  
 For them the gems disclose their various dies, } 350  
 Rival their glowing cheeks, and emulate their eyes.

Even tho' their smiles the stubborn bosom tame,  
 They kindle martial valor's generous flame :  
 EUROPE of old her free born daughters gave  
 To Virtue's champion, not to Passion's slave, 355  
 Not only Love's sweet raptures to dispense,  
 And sooth with wanton blandishment the sense,

But

But the rough scenes of changeful life to share,  
 Double each joy, and lighten every care,  
 While he their choice who fiercest waged the fight, 360  
 For Beauty ever graced the boldest knight:  
 And still amid REFINEMENT's softest reign  
 The glorious with their gentle breasts retain.  
 No lazy SYBARITE with wily art  
 By female manners wins the female heart, 365  
 But thro' the studied garb and air refined,  
 Must beam the symptoms of the manly mind,  
 For warlike fame their sure attention draws,  
 And the brave soldier gains their first applause.

Contending Nations too with jealous pride, 370  
 And different interest, EUROPE's shores divide;  
 Each state, like GREECE of old in Freedom's hour,  
 With greater strength boasts independent power,  
 And fierce Ambition by incessant storms  
 In valor's rigid school the hero forms. 375  
 Hence tho' its sweet allurements wealth display,  
 Tho' pleasure wide extend its filken sway,  
 Still EUROPE may her manly sons behold,  
 Firm tho' luxurious, and tho' gentle bold;

The

The polish'd noble feels the generous fires 380

And dauntless courage of his feudal fires,

Her rule severe imperious honour brings,

And checks the power of arbitrary kings.

Does Honor call?—unsheath'd the avenging sword

Mocks the stern mandate of the regal lord. 385

Does martial Honor point to bold renown?—

From sumptuous banquets, and from beds of down,

Elate and gay the pamper'd warrior flies

To fatal climates, and ungenial skies;

The extremes of heat and cold unshelter'd braves, 390

And tempts the furious strife of winds and waves;

Sees all around him crouding legions fall

Pierced by the gleaming steel, or distant ball,

Unmoved receives the cannon's thundering breath,

And meets with breast unarm'd the shafts of death. 395

Ah BRITAIN! while with radiance all divine

On thee the unfullied rays of freedom shine!

While thy bold sons with steady eye pervade

Each form by ancient error sacred made,

The haughty noble's titled boast deride, 400

And treat with scorn hereditary pride,

Despise



Despise fantastic Honor's shadowy name,  
Till Sense and Reason ratify her claim.

Dread in my bosom even those Virtues raise,  
Anxious I view and tremble while I praise. 405

Tho' Rank in other climes may chance to tread  
Insulting o'er indignant Merit's head,  
Yet curb'd its visionary fetters hold  
The aspiring slave of plunder, and of gold.

Custom will oft where Prudence yeilds, prevail, 410

And Prejudice may save if Wisdom fail:

Should e'er Corruption's dark insidious wave  
Sap the firm barriers ancient Freedom gave;  
Should patriot glory fly the ill fated land,

And fordid wealth the sole distinction stand, 415

What could repel with salutary force

Increasing Luxury's unbridled course?

Thy recreant sons may then lament too late

The happier errors of each neighbouring state;

And Virtue's pure ethereal substance fled, 420

With Honor's fainter semblance in its stead.

Tho' Commerce wide her general blessings shower

When moderation bounds her restless power,

Tho

Tho' on our shores she spread with liberal hand  
The fair productions of each distant land, 425  
And richer harvests from our cultured fields  
Rough Industry by her encouraged yields,  
Feeds both the toiling hive, and lazy drones,  
The Hind that labors, and the Lord that owns;  
Yet when forsaking every manlier thought, 430  
Each firm resource with native vigor fraught,  
A feeble state with abject hope relies  
But on the uncertain aid her force supplies;  
From imposts laid on vice subsistence draws,  
And lavish waste encourages by laws; 435  
Disdains each nobler call that charm'd of old,  
And rates perfection by the test of gold,  
Soon shall corruption with unbounded tide  
In sweeping fury o'er the region ride;  
While crouching woes the wretched empire wait 440  
That vainly tried by Luxury to be great,  
Gave her own strength and inborn worth away  
For the faint phantom of commercial sway;  
Proud to extend a vast precarious reign  
On folly founded, and which crimes maintain. 445

Sure, or the scene a gloomy aspect wears  
View'd thro' the medium of prophetic fears,  
Or now, even now, the sad contagion spreads,  
And dire effects on BRITISH manners sheds.  
The race who draw their worth from wealth alone, 450  
Nor other rank, nor other merit own,  
In high esteem by abject flattery placed,  
Debase our morals, and corrupt our taste:  
The dread infection flies from fire to son,  
And Folly dissipates what Avarice won; 455  
Expense the place of elegance supplies,  
And half demolish'd Beauty's empire lies.  
The breast that Education never form'd  
Bright Science train'd, or sportive Fancy warm'd,  
Knows not with mirth untinged by scorn to please, 460  
Be gay with dignity, and grave with ease,  
But vents the jest uncouth with coarse delight,  
And deems unmanner'd insolence polite.  
While the rude vulgar glad to draw disgrace  
On the invidious claims of birth, and place, 465  
Applaud the glare by lavish Ignorance shewn,  
And give distinctions chance may make their own.

Ye



Ye ancient Lords of BRITAIN's fair domain !  
'Tis yours to vindicate REFINEMENT's reign ;  
Tho' Wisdom's eye disdain the titled slave 470  
Staining the honors which his fathers gave,  
Yet with a brighter hue shall virtues shine  
That add new lustre to a noble line.—  
Say is the pride of birth concentr'd all  
In the old Trophy and the banner'd hall ?— 475  
Yours be the fairer boast in docile youth  
To catch from Learning's voice the lore of Truth,  
Drink the pure reasonings of the patriot sage,  
And cull each flower that decks the classic page,  
Till by the fame of godlike heroes fired, 480  
The man shall copy what the boy admired.  
If leaving these superior aims ye try  
In every vice with every fool to vie,  
Each fair advantage fortune gives forego  
To wage unequal conflict with the foe, 485  
Say can the gazing croud be justly blamed  
Who pay to wealth the deference honor claim'd,  
When sickly folly taints that generous worth  
Which heighten'd grandeur and ennobled birth ?  
Your happier purpose be it to restore 490  
The fame that waited BRITAIN's lords of yore Ere

Ere true Nobility's unblemish'd shape  
Was changed for manners every knave can ape.  
Yours be it Freedom's empire to support  
No Faction's slaves, no flatterers of a Court. 495  
Watch with keen eye the encroachments of the throne,  
But guard its rights for they protect your own.  
Fly not, discharged each due of public care,  
To breathe soft dissipation's summer air,  
Where Pleasure's hand prepares the popped draught, 500  
To drown reflection, and to deaden thought.  
No, rather joy the shouting train to meet  
Who hail the lord of each paternal seat;  
Where your wide forests spread parental shade  
View the gay scenes of rural taste displayed; 505  
Let Hospitality's warm hand await  
To court the stranger to the friendly gate;  
Enforce with steady zeal your Country's laws,  
To Justice true, and firm in Virtue's cause;  
Curb Vice licentious in her mad career, 510  
And teach oppressive Arrogance to fear;  
Redress when injured Merit heaves the sigh,  
And wipe the tear from pale Affliction's eye:  
So shall your fame with purer honor live  
Than wealth, than faction, or than rank can give, While

While these best titles on each name attend,  
The bad man's terror, and the poor man's friend.

Long may ye mock in this secure defence  
The vain attempts of bloated insolence :  
No more shall sense by rudeness be debased, 520  
Or Fortune's lavish minions vitiate taste ;  
Her stores profuse no more shall Commerce fling,  
But brood o'er Industry with fostering wing ;  
While your examples teach her wiser train  
To use with prudence, what by care they gain. 525

And you ye fair ! forgive the honest lay  
That even your slightest errors dares display,  
Nor think satiric rage my arm can move  
To wound like Diomed the Queen of Love,  
Tho' I presume to point the fated hour 530  
Mark'd with the symptoms of your fading power,  
And mourn that all those arts which Life refine,  
Raised by your sway, shall with your sway decline.  
Oft by the youth neglected now ye stand  
Nor meet Attention's fond assiduous hand : 535  
O be it yours to check with just disdain  
This prelude sure of Luxury's selfish reign,  
Ah ! leave that thirst of riot's endless joy  
Whose constant round your empire must destroy : Beau-



Beauties from scene to scene that restless fly 540  
Lose all their force, and fate the public eye;  
The midnight revel early age o'ertakes,  
And the wan cheek the native rose forsakes;  
Light Affectation too intent to please  
Disfigures more than time or pale disease; 545  
And tyrant Fashion with PROCRUSTES' arm  
Shapes to its wild caprice each tortured charm.  
For Love's! for Virtue's sake! ah lay aside  
The undaunted forehead, and the martial stride!  
Again the garb of female softness wear, 550  
And quit the fierceness of the Grenadier:  
For can the ornaments your cares combine  
When all the toilet's rich materials shine,  
Match blushing Modesty's transparent red  
O'er the warm cheek in sweet suffusion spread, 555  
Or like the downcast eye's mild lustre move,  
Whose lid veils Meekness and whose glance is Love?  
In fabled times by IDA's lofty wood,  
When rival Goddesses contending stood,  
Tho' JUNO conscious of her awful mein 560  
March'd with the state of JOVE's imperious Queen,  
Tho' PALLAS deck'd her Amazonian charms  
In the refulgent glare of radiant arms, Yet

Yet Love prevail'd in CYTHEREA's eyes,  
And smiling Beauty gain'd the golden prize.

565

From ALBION far may heaven's benign decrees  
Avert the storms my anxious mind forsees :  
Still may she shine with pure REFINEMENT's grace  
Secure on Virtue's adamant base ;  
Prosperous awhile tho' private Vice may stand,  
No miracle can save a vicious land ;  
In life's calm paths tho' fortune oft dispense  
Success to Guilt, and pain to Innocence.

570

Whence Faith with strengthen'd eye beyond the tomb  
Sees the dread hour of Justice yet to come,  
On public crimes must early vengeance wait,  
And speedy ruin wrap an impious state,  
Since from the offence the sure correction springs,—  
And her own scourge abandon'd Folly brings.

575

But let not man attempt with bounded skill  
To search the depths of Heaven's eternal will,  
Inspect the rolls of fate with fruitless care,  
And read the future doom of empires there.  
Enough, her eye as cool Reflection throws  
O'er all the scenes these lengthen'd lays disclose,

580

585

To

To mark each prospect as they move along,  
And draw these moral maxims from the song.  
That tho' REFINEMENT know with temperate ray  
To wake each bloom of Merit into day,  
Urged to excess her heighten'd powers destroy 590  
The expanding bud, and blast each promised joy,  
As storms and sultry gleams o'ercome the flower  
Raised by the genial sun, and gentle shower.  
That Education, while her careful art  
Clears from each baneful Prejudice the heart 595  
Must cherish inborn Glory's generous aim,  
The source of rising worth, and future fame.  
That above all, on each ingenuous breast  
Be with strong force this sacred Truth impress'd ;  
No polish'd Manners rival Virtue's price, 600  
No savage Ignorance disgusts like Vice.

F I N I S.